Topic: Changes to Continuing Medical Education Requirements

Effective January 1, 2005, the Alaska State Medical Board increased the minimum number of credits of continuing medical education required of physicians in order to renew their licenses.

Beginning with the licensing period 2005-06, physicians will be required to obtain at least 25 credits of Category I, AMA-approved or Category 1A or 2A of AOA-approved continuing medical education credits for a total of 50 credits each biennial licensing period.

Nationally, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), and the American Academy for Family Physicians, have revised their standards and requirements for continuing medical education. The AMA and AAFP will no longer simply award hours of attendance but will recognize credits awarded for the education. The AAFP is adopting an evidence-based medicine scheme that will allow the participating physician to earn double the number of credits awarded if the CME is 'EB CME.'

For more information about these exciting new processes, please go the their web sites at www.accme.org and www.aafp.org for more information.